

## For the Little Folks.

## THE BUCKWHEAT.

Often, when one, after a shower, passes a field upon which buckwheat is growing, he sees that it has become all seared and black.

It is just as if a flame of fire had overrun it, and the peasant says: "That has come of the lightning."

But why came it from that? I will relate what the sparrow told me and the sparrow had heard it from an old willow tree, which stood, and still stands, by a buckwheat field. It is a very large, venerable willow, but gnarled and old; it is cleft in the middle, and grass and blackberry vines grow from the opening. The tree bent over, and its branches drooped quite down to the earth, as if they were long, green hair.

Upon the fields around grew grain—rye, barley and oats. The grain stood so blest, and the richer the ear the lower it bowed in willing humility.

But there was also a field of buckwheat, and this lay just over by the willow tree. The buckwheat by no means bowed itself, like the other grain, but paraded stiff and proud. "I am indeed as rich as the corn ears," it said; "besides, I am far prettier; my flowers are beautiful as the apple tree; it is a joy to look upon me and mine. Didst thou ever see anything more splendid than we, thou old willow tree?"

And the willow nodded with the head, just as if it would say: "Yes, that is understood."

But the buckwheat paraded with more open arrogance, and said: "The stupid tree! it is so old that the grass grows from its trunk."

Now a frightful storm came on. All the field flowers folded up their leaves, or bowed their little heads while the storm went over them; but the buckwheat stood up in its pride. "Bow thy head like us," said the flowers.

"I am by no means accustomed to that," answered the buckwheat.

"Lower thy head like us," cried the grain. "Now comes flying the angel of the storm. He has wings which reach from the clouds even down to the earth, and he will break through thy midst before thou canst pray him to be merciful to thee."

"Yes, but I will not bow," said the buckwheat.

"Shut thy flowers and lower thy leaves," said the old willow tree. "Look not at the lightning when the cloud bursts. Even man dare not do it, for in the lightning one can look into God's heaven; but this sight might blind even the men; but what would not happen to us, the plants of the earth, if we dare it, we who are far inferior."

"Far inferior!" said the buckwheat with haughty vanity. "Now I will look straight into God's heaven."

And it did as its arrogance and pride. It was as if the whole world stood in flame, it lightened so; and when the storm was over, the flowers and the grain stood in the clear, quiet air, greatly refreshed from the rain, but the buckwheat was burnt coal-black by the lightning; it was only as a dead weed upon the field.

And as the branches of the old willow tree stirred in the wind, great drops of water fell from the green leaves, just as if the tree wept, and the sparrows said:

"Why weepest thou? It is so blest here. See how the sun shines; see how the clouds withdraw! Dost thou not breathe the fragrance of the flowers and shrubs? Why weepest thou, willow tree?"

And the willow told of the pride of the buckwheat, of its arrogance, presumption and punishment. And I but repeat the story, saying that the manifestation of such a spirit is always followed by punishment of some kind.—Translated from Hans Christian Anderson.

**THE FOX AND THE GOAT.**—A Fox was one day drinking at a well when his feet slipped and he fell into the water. It was not deep enough to drown him, yet, with all his efforts, poor Raynard could not get out.

Presently a thirsty Goat looked in, and seeing the Fox at the bottom, asked him if the water was good.

"O, yes," says the Fox, "it is beautiful, and there is plenty of it." In jumped the Goat, and in a moment the Fox leaped on to his back, and thence out of the well. "Aha, my friend!" said he, as he stood in safety on the brink, "if your brains had been equal to your beard, you'd have looked before you leaped!"

And then the cunning fellow ran away and left the poor Goat in the water. Before you follow the advice of cunning people, think well of the consequences.

**TWINS.**—A little girl hearing that she was born on the queen's birthday, took no notice of it at the time but a day or two after asked her father if she and the queen were twins.

Woman: To her virtues we give love, to her beauty our admiration, to her hoops the whole sidewalk.

## THE INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, IN Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas.

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Ten copies one year to one address 15.00  
Fifty " " " " " 75.00

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